to flower and seed feeding larvae at that time, whereas those laying later might prefer elder, *Heracleum* or *Angelica*.

In my second paper I noted that out of ten larvae obtained from elderflowers in late June 1984, I obtained eight pupae from which three moths emerged at the end of July, while the rest lay over until 1985.

This of course renders my earlier hypothesis invalid; however Haggett *did* rear larvae on *Anthriscus,* but has anyone ever found larvae on *Anthriscus* in the wild?

Thus it is clear that at least a proportion of May-June females lay eggs on elder which produce pupae which may hatch in July-August or lie over until the following spring. There are still two perplexing questions: whereas I find larvae on elder annually in modest numbers, Haggett only did so in 1978. I shall not attempt to answer this.

The second question concerns the failure of both Haggett and myself (before 1984) to rear second brood adults from early summer larvae. While I cannot answer this entirely satisfactorily, I can provide a few ideas which may merit further investigation. When making elderflower wine (this being the circumstance under which I find my larvae), I wait until the flower heads are beginning to go over, at which time the flowers strip most readily from their stalks. By this time some of the larvae are full-grown and pupate very soon afterwards. It is quite possible that many larvae may have reached this stage and left the plants before I pick my flowers, and such early larvae would be more likely to produce adults in the same season. My pre-1984 larva samples were of very small numbers, and may not have been looked after very well (which would retard them). In order to produce equal numbers of July and May adults, it would be necessary, in the wild, for the number of pupae lying over to be several times greater than those producing the second brood. This is due to the greater length of time spent in the pupal stage, and the difference could be further increased by the intervention of winter. On this basis any random sample of larvae is likely to contain a high proportion of potential overwinterers. Finally, the proportion of moths emerging in the same season is doubtless greatly influenced by the mid-summer temperatures; this is reflected in the varying numbers appearing in summer in different years.— M.F.V. CORLEY, Pucketty Farm Cottage, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 8JP.

Scydmaenus rufus **Müll. & Kunze (Col.: Scydmaenidae) apparently new to Kent.**

It is somewhat remarkable that no Kent record appears to exist for this scarce south-eastern species; at least, I have been unable to trace one. I was interested, therefore, to come upon a specimen under bark of a fallen oak branch in the woods at Chislehurst, W. Kent, on the southern fringe of Greater London (12.x.89). Other beetles present under the bark were *Carpophilus sexpustulatus* F. in plenty and a few *Orthoperus mundus* Matth.

S. rufus is principally a Surrey insect, known to me from no less than eight localities in the county: Richmond Park, Mickleham, Shirley, Croydon, Guildford, Leatherhead, Epsom and Wisley Common. Elsewhere it is recorded from Hurst Green, E. Sussex; Enfield and Hendon, Middx.; Watford, Herts.; and Windsor, Berks. For its two distinct types of habitat see Owen, 1986, *Ent. Rec.* **98**: 78-9; Allen, *ibid.* 211-2— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

***Rheumaptera hastata* ssp. *hastata* Linn. (Lep.: Geometridae): A welcome return in Herefordshire.**

On the 6th September 1986, I found a spinning in birch leaves in Haugh Wood, Woolhope. Constructed into a neat pyramid by three leaves, the leaves were fenestrated from within by a dark grey geometrid larva. I was almost certain that this could only be *Rheumaptera hastata* Linn., a species long since disappeared from the county. The attractive Argent and Sable duly emerged the following spring on 22.5.1987. The species is recorded from this site up to 1968, after which it has mysteriously disappeared for eighteen years.

I visited Queens Wood, Kempley on 28.5.1987 and was delighted to see two moths flying along the woodland rides in morning sunshine, a new site to me for this species. Several spinnings in birch containing larvae were spotted later the same year in August and September. On 7.6.1987 a single moth was seen flying erratically over mixed coppice with birch at Eastnor, while the final irony was to see one sitting on my own front door on 5.6.1987.

Curiously I have failed to see moths or larvae in 1988 in any of the localities mentioned. I have no data for the present status for ssp. *hastata* in England except a feeling that it has drastically declined or disappeared from many of its old sites. The preferred larval feeding place in the Herefordshire sites have been smaller regenerative or younger coppice birch rather than taller trees. It is to be hoped that the new resurgent interest in coppice management may see an improvement in the status of this attractive moth.— Dr M.W. HARPER, Cherry Orchard, Bullen, Ledbury, Hereford.

The Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta* L. — Lep.: Nymphalidae) attracted to a lighted window.

The evening of 26th July 1989 was warm and sticky, with a high level of entomological activity. At around midnight I was observing moths attracted to my lighted kitchen window, when an insect struck the window quite hard — three times. On opening the door to investigate, a Red Admiral flew in, across the kitchen and into the lounge, where it rested on a door, wings open.

This species has been noted at light before, but the usual explanation